

**REMARKS**

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner and the Supervisory Examiner (SPE) for the courtesies extended to the Applicant's attorney during a February 26, 2004 interview.

During the interview, Applicant's attorney, the Examiner and the SPE, discussed the present claims and the pending rejections. In accordance with the interview and subsequent telephone conversations between the Applicant's attorney and the Examiner, the claims have been revised.

More specifically, in many instances the word "call" or "calls" has been replaced with the word --traffic--. For example, in revised claim 1 the words "call type", "first call type" and "second call type" have been replaced with the words --traffic type--, --first traffic type--, and --second traffic type--.

As revised, Applicant believes the claims are now patentable over the references cited in the Office Action because none of the references, taken separately or in combination, discloses, teaches or suggests a method or apparatus for routing traffic, over a communications network from an original location to a destination location, associated with a traffic type said traffic comprising signaling data and traffic data, each method or apparatus further comprising, among other things, determining a traffic type for signaling data that has been received wherein the traffic type is characterized as a first traffic type or a second traffic type, the first traffic type being a non-IP based voice

traffic type and the second traffic type being an IP-based traffic type, as in the claims of the present invention.

Applicant submits that the claim revisions only require a cursory review by the Examiner and do not require a further search.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the pending rejections and allowance of the claims.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John E. Curtin at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

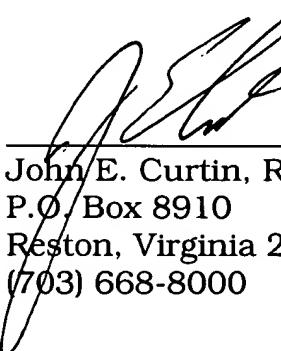
In the event this Response does not place the present application in condition for allowance, applicant requests the Examiner to contact the undersigned at (703) 668-8000 to schedule a personal interview.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By

  
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